

Hancock School Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 1st, 2022

Present: Bruce Weiner, Missy Turner, Cahill LeBarron, Elisa Kryskow

Also Present: Rebecca Phillips (Superintendent/SPED Director), Jay Merselis (Principal)

1. Call to Order - Alex called the meeting to order at 6:09pm
2. Public Concerns: 4 people present, concerns regarding Masking Update
3. Correspondence:
  1. Initiative Petition for Amendment to OF LEGAL ADVERTISING BY-LAW, HANCOCK, MA
    1. To promote transparency and improve accessibility of town government information
    2. Correspondence related to not having turned in the town report; Alex will turn in
    3. Did not get propane deal; S.C. assumed that the town signed for it and that was not the case
    4. Scholars for Dollars check received
4. Review/Approval of Minutes: Cahill- 1st, Bruce- 2nd, to approve February minutes. All in favor
5. Principal's Report:
  1. Great morale with Boys and Girls Club and Mardi Gras celebrations with Ms. Tremblay's class.
  2. Enrollment: Remains constant; looking ahead to next year we expect approximately 50 students with new people inquiring about Cricket Cove. Likely 2 spots open to school choice for each grade except 2nd and 3rd.
    1. Letter to be sent to families with children 2 years 9 months or older on an IEP
  3. Hiring/Staffing:
    1. Some internal interest in Coordinator position for the Summer Program
  4. Vote to approve draft of 2022-2023 School Calendar. Elisa - 1st, Cahill - 2nd. All in favor.
  5. Bathroom issues have been resolved with A1 septic putting tanks on risers so they are at grade. Moving forward we will proactively pump every two years.
  6. Read Across America starts tomorrow with a HOPE sponsored Read-A-Thon
  7. HOPE events with a sledding gathering and an Easter Egg Hunt
6. Superintendent's Report
  1. Janice Derby submitted her Retirement Letter after 34 years; she is and has been an absolute asset to the school
  2. Discussion about Masking Protocols
    1. DESE eliminated the masking requirement as of 28 February 2022. There are some protocols where masking will still be required (e.g. returning to school from a COVID positive environment or in school health offices).
    2. Current data for the state and school (a noticeable decrease in cases, hospitalizations and deaths).
    3. Mr. Merselis solicited feedback from parents, staff and the greater community (opinions were split).
    4. Dufour Busing system asks that we continue to mask while decisions are being made; Dr. Phillips asking the committee to support this.
    5. Round table discussion with community members and S.C.
    6. School Committee motioned to give the Superintendent of Schools the power to decide when to comply with DESE's newly released Mask Requirement based on March 7th testing results are back. Cahill- 1st, Elisa- 2nd. 4 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carries.
  3. Meeting with Selectboard and Finance Committee to introduce the budget that has been discussed
    1. Reviewed "Hancock Highlights: FY '23 Budget"
    2. Elisa motioned for 18% of previous budget year school choice funds to offset current year's budget year over year, Cahill - 2nd. Bruce motioned to amend that this is revisited yearly. Cahill 2nd. Vote: All in favor, unanimous.
7. SPED report: None

8. Finance Report: Reviewed
9. New Business
  1. Dollars for Scholars
10. No executive session needed
12. Alex motion to adjourn 8:07 - Cahill 1st, Melissa 2nd, all in favor.